

**The Most Wonderful Time of The Year** (Luke 2:8-14)

**Proposition:** I want you to see three truths that make Christmas a blessing instead of a burden.

**I. The Tidings of Christmas are Declared** (Vs. 11)

A. The Revelation of the Lord's Birth (Vs. 11a)

B. The Reason for the Lord's Birth (Vs. 11a-b)

**II. The Truth of Christmas is Displayed** (Vs. 12)

A. The Finish of His Life (Vs. 12b)

B. The Fullness of His Love (Vs. 12c)

**III. The Time of Christmas is Described** (Vs. 13-14)

A. A Source for Rejoicing (Vs. 13-14)

B. A Season for Remembering (Vs. 13-13)

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (Luke 2: 8-14) Have you ever been walking down the mall during Christmas and hear a familiar voice singing - "It's the most wonderful time of the year" Christmas is

not always a wonderful season for many. One declaration I hear is nothing. No Christmas is not "the most wonderful time of the year for everyone. It is a sad and depressing time for many. I can understand and sympathize with those who can be come depressed and down because of absence of loved ones, loneliness, financial and family stress. But yet at the same time I do believe that this can be a joyful time of the year regardless of what your circumstances are. Paul in 1 Thess 5:18 "in every thing. He didn't say for everything but in every thing. It may be a depressing and stressful time of year but there is something in Christmas season that ought to fill you with the true Joy of Christmas. I want you to see 3 truths that make Christmas a blessing instead of a burden.

I. The Tidings of Christmas are Declared  
Good tidings of great Joy! There has never been a greater message delivered by either man or angel than the message



given in our text. In this angels message were  
A. The Revelation of the Lords Birth  
When the angel said this day he was not  
referring to any ordinary day. This was  
the long awaited and anticipated day  
from the dawn of creation. If you could  
climb into a time machine and journey back  
to The Garden of Eden, you would find the  
birth of a saviour announced and anticipated  
Gen 3:15. God affirmed that promise again  
& again. Is 7:14 The saviour would be born of  
a virgin. Micah 5:2. Speaking of Prophecies, Peter  
Stear in his book "Science Speaks," applies the

### B. The Reason of the Lords Birth

The angel announced that a Saviour <sup>was</sup>  
Born! Saviour = deliverer. The Lord  
Jesus came to deliver men from the penalty  
and the power of Sin. No greater news has  
reached the ears of men. Man kind from all  
over the world and throughout the ages  
has risen to declare that it is the most  
wonderful message they have ever received  
A message not limited to a particular people  
but to all people - Good news to every  
people, nation, ~~house~~, race or color. <sup>No nation</sup>

### C. The Truth of Christmas is displayed

The angel described the scene that  
the shepherds would see when they  
found the Christ child wrapped in swaddling

1) There's nothing like the festive season to force you to face the fact that life isn't always as joyful and triumphant as we're lead to believe. What happens? For single people, in particular, Christmas and New Year can be a very isolating time. But even if you're surrounded by family and friends, this time of year can bring more than its fair share of stress, noise, anxiety and squabbles. Add this to long-standing money worries, family conflicts, job problems or bereavement, and it's no wonder calls to helplines about depression and suicide rise by nearly ten per cent during the festive season."

2) 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

3) Gen 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"*cls. 7:14 *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"*

4) ...applies the modern science of probability to just eight prophecies regarding Christ. He writes, *"The chance that any man might have ...fulfilled all eight prophecies is one in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup>. That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (One hundred quadrillion). Stoner illustrates that number by saying if we took 10 to the 17th silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas, they would cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Then if we marked one of those silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, then blindfold a man and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up that one marked silver dollar, what chance would he have of getting the right one? Stoner concludes that just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing those eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man was one in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup>.*



1) ...he was destined to die. When many think about Christmas, they often think of Santa Claus. To them, Christmas is a matter of Santa Claus coming to town rather than a Saviour coming to the earth. I once came across a list of differences between Santa Claus and Jesus: Santa lives at the North Pole. Jesus lives everywhere. Santa rides in a sleigh. Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water. Santa comes once a year but Jesus is an ever present help. Santa fills your stockings with goodies. Jesus supplies all your needs. Santa comes down your chimney. Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks. Santa lets you sit in his lap. Jesus lets you rest in His arms. Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly. Jesus has a heart of love. Santa's little helpers make toys. Jesus makes new lives. Santa puts gifts under your tree. Jesus was God's gift that died on a tree. Christmas is about the Lord Jesus coming to this earth to be the Saviour who would die for the sins of the whole world.

2) I read about a little boy who was in his first Christmas play. He was five and was one of the shepherds. He was dressed out in his bathrobe, sandals and cardboard crook. He was not a lead shepherd but just a common shepherd standing in the back. But when it came time for the Nativity, he crowded around to the front so that he could see. Then, having seen he stepped to the footlights and, looking out, cried out to his parents, "Mommy! Daddy! Mary had her baby, and it's a boy!"

3) said, it was a sign. In how or what was it a sign? It was symbolic of the depths the Lord Jesus stooped for the likes of you and me. It is a sign of the depths of the love He has for each of us. How low He went and how far He would go stands as the evidence of the love that He has for the whole world. God has shown His love to us by leaving the glories of heaven, condescending to this sin cursed world, robbing Himself in a human body that He might be one of us so He could die for us.

clothes, 2) lying in a manger. What truth is displayed

A. The Finish of His Life - The word swaddling speaks of a wrapping with strips of cloth. It is descriptive of the wrapping a dead body for burial.

It speaks of a death shroud. Not in a soft pretty blanket, but in the clothes of death. It is a shame that God is communicating that the Lord Jesus had come for one reason and one reason only on that to die. The Lord Jesus did not come to this earth to primarily work miracles, although he did many. Not teach. He came to die. From his first breath to now. ①

B. The Fullness of His Love - This small babe wrapped in... is not just any child he is the architect of Days, the great one wrapped in Human flesh. Can you imagine that, the self-existent God in a baby's shell. Yet it was a baby but not just any baby. He was God, the Everlasting Father. Poet wrote "It was much, that man was made like God before. But that God should be made like man much more." And why? Why would God who inhabits the praise of eternity stoop so low as to be born in a feed trough? The angel said it... ②

III. The Time of Christmas is Described ch vs 13-14 we read... This time of This time of revelation was also a time of Rejoicing! In those days it was custom



for family + friends to gather round halcy and sing

A. A Season for Rejoicing - Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:7 - Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. To you that have received the Lord Jesus as saviour + Lord he is precious and he is a source of Rejoicing not only this time of year but all the year through. Just as that divine child Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem, He the divine son of God was born in my heart! John Sabaster Bach wrote: Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice, Now ye hear of endless bliss Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath

B. A Season for Remembering - Someone has said that Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace by giving our kids toy rockets, machine guns and tanks. Christmas is the season to remember that the Prince of Peace has come. He came and lived a perfect sinless life. Died on a cruel cross, was raised from a borrowed tomb and has gone to prepare a place for all who have trusted him. It is a time to remember we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, into

TV Closing - Many today are saying that Christmas will not be so merry b/c of economic. Well maybe so for many, but it can be the most wonderful time of the year for those that know and love that child...

1) There were no friends and family present that night in Bethlehem, so God sent His own choir.

2) ...He hath opened the heavenly door, And man is blessed forever more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

3) ...Time to remember why that baby cradled in a manger, in Bethlehem is so important.